

Upper Catfish Creek Watershed Project

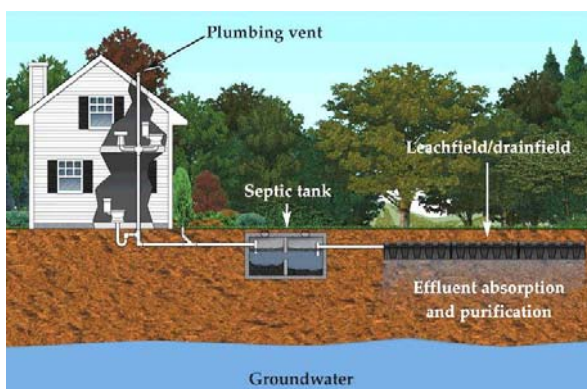
Dubuque Soil and Water Conservation District

Septic System Workshop—August 22nd, 1-3pm, Swiss Valley Nature Center

The Upper Catfish Creek Watershed (UCCW) has received funding to provide up to 21 \$100 dollar vouchers good towards the pumping of septic tanks within the Upper Catfish Creek Watershed boundaries.

The District also will be providing 50% cost share (up to \$3,500) for the replacement of one septic tank within the Upper Catfish Creek Watershed Project.

Dan Olson, an environmental specialist from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), will be speaking at the workshop covering three main topics: Understanding how your septic system works, How to care for your septic system, and Signs of a



faulty system.

Paul Buss, the Dubuque County Sanitarian, will also be present at the workshop to address concerns, issues, and questions anyone might have regarding their septic system.

The workshop will be held at the Swiss Valley Nature Center on Wednesday, August 22nd, from 1-3 pm.

To be eligible for the \$100 dollar vouchers, and/or the septic system replacement cost-share, you must be present at the workshop.

To register please contact Eric Schmechel, UCCW Coordinator at 563-876-3418 Ext.3.

Photo: Courte of Infiltration Systems Inc.

University of Dubuque Students Involved with Project

Starting this fall, the watershed project is going to be working with the University of Dubuque Environmental Science and Chemistry students, taking a closer look at water quality in the Upper Catfish Creek.

Dr. Dale Easley, Depart-

ment head of the Natural and Applied Science program, and Dr. Mark Sinton, Chemist, both professors at the University of Dubuque would like their students to become involved with the project.

Students will be taking water samples from

within the watershed twice a month, and will be analyzing their results at the University.

Students will be presenting their research this December at the University of Dubuque.



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Check out the Upper Catfish Creek Watershed (UCCW) Promotional Video airing on Media-com's Channel 16

- Monday's @ 3 pm
- Tuesday's @ 8 pm
- Friday's @ 8 pm
- The video can also be seen on weekend nights.

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IOWATER Class

If you are interested in finding out what water quality is like in your area—this class is for you!

On Monday, September 10th and Wednesday, September 12th the Upper Catfish Creek Watershed project is hosting an IOWATER certification class. The ten hour class is taking place at the Swiss Valley Nature Center from 2-7 pm. Pre-registration is required and there is a \$25 fee, which includes an IOWATER testing kit.

IOWATER'S purpose is to protect and improve Iowa's water quality by raising citizen awareness about Iowa's watersheds, supporting and encouraging the growth and networking of Iowa's volun-

teer water monitoring communities, and promoting water monitoring activities as a means of assessing and understanding Iowa's aquatic resources.

This class will contain topics such as



starting a monitoring plan, the "why-tos" and "how-tos" of water monitoring, what to do with the data, and some muddy fun!!

The University of Dubuque Environmental Science students are going to be going through the class to grasp a better understanding of water quality within Upper Catfish Creek.

To register, or for further information, please call Eric @ 563-876-3418 Ext.3 by August 31st.



Road Signs

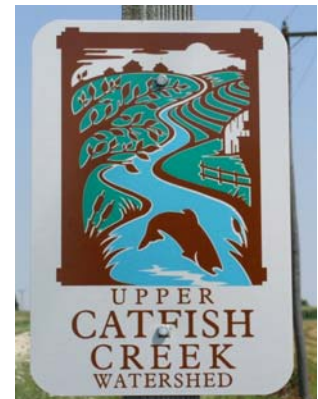
To help recognize the Upper Catfish Creek Watershed (UCCW) project, Dubuque County has given the project permission to install road signs along the boundary of the watershed.

Along with the road signs being displayed across the watershed, we have also created an informational "What is a watershed?" sign(s) that will be displayed outside at the Swiss Valley Nature Center and Swiss Valley Park!

The UCCW project has multiple goals,

however, developing local partnerships with private landowners and governmental agencies to protect this existing high-quality trout stream from future water problems is one of the project's main goals.

Being involved with the UCCW project is a major aspect of protecting water quality, soil erosion, and fish and wildlife habitat in Dubuque County. If you have any questions, or concerns give us a call!



Best Management Practices To Date

The Upper Catfish Creek Watershed project was started in January of this year and has been moving along swiftly.

To date, Best Management Practices (BMPs) that have been constructed or implemented have been: Timber Stand Improvement (TSI), Grassed Waterway (s), Riparian CRP, and Native Landscaping.

This fall, the Dubuque County Conser-

vation (DCCB) is going to be adding an additional parking lot at the Swiss Valley Nature Center made out of Pervious Asphalt. Pervious Asphalt allows water to infiltrate into layers of limestone placed below the paving and then into soil and groundwater below.

Also this fall, in cooperation with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) roughly a 1000 feet of stream-bank stabilization is planned to be installed.



Conservation Practices on the land
Photo: Courtesy Natural Resource Conservation Service

Cost-Share Available



Financial Incentives are available to watershed landowners interested in installing conservation practices, protecting the Upper Catfish Creek.

Best Management Practices (BMPs) are methods, measures, or practices used to protect, maintain, and preserve water quality wildlife habitat, and soil

erosion. One of the biggest threats to the Upper Catfish Creek Watershed is non-point source pollution. Non-point Source pollution occurs when runoff from rainwater and snowmelt pick up and carries pollutants into Catfish Creek.

Listed Below is a detailed list of Cost-

Share available for the different BMPs the UCCW project has available over the next three years. If you have **any** BMP's in mind that you would like further information on—PLEASE call Eric Schmechel @ 563-876-3418, Ext.3 to get more details.

Upper Catfish Creek Watershed Project		
	Number, Acres, or Other Units	Cost-Share Rate
<u>Agricultural BMPs</u>		
Streambank Stabilization	1000 Feet	75%
Grade Stabilization Structure	6 Structures	75%
Water Sediment Control Structure	14 Structures	75%
Sink Hole Diversion	3 Structures	75%
Filter Strips*	4.8 Acres	90%
Buffer Strips*	4.8 Acres	90%
Riparian*	4.8 Acres	90%
Livestock Exclusion/Limited Use**	30 Acres	50% AC
Terraces**	5000 Feet	50% AC
Grassed Waterways**	1.98 Acres	75%
Strip Cropping**	10 Acres	\$40 Acre FR
*Funding Provided Through Conservation Reserve Program	<div>NEW—CRP RENTAL RATES ARE INCREASING EFFECTIVE AUGUST 1st. THESE NEW RATES LOOK TO BE \$30 HIGHER PER ACRE ON ELIGIBLE LAND!</div>	
**Funding Provided Through EQIP		
<u>Urban BMPs</u>		
Rain Gardens	6 Gardens	75%
Native Landscaping	6 Acres	75%
Infiltration Trenches	2 Trenches	75%
Permeable Paving	6000 Sq. Feet	75%
Septic System Vouchers (\$100 Each System)	21 Vouchers (7 Per Year)	N/A
Septic System Replacement	1 Replacement	50%

**Visit The Conservation
District on the Web!**

www.dubuqueswcd.org

CONTACT US AT:

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Dubuque Soil and Water Conservation District

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Green Vision Education

The Green Vision Education Program recognizes schools that practice pollution prevention, recycling, energy efficiency and waste reduction. Award winning schools receive a Green Vision Education flag to hang outside and a banner to display inside the building. Efforts are monitored yearly and additional recognition is given by community partners for specific areas of environmental stewardship. The Green

Vision program is a cooperative effort supported by the Dubuque Metropolitan Area Solid Waste Agency, the Dubuque Community School District, Holy Family School District, the City of Dubuque, the Dubuque County Conservation Board, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, and Durrant Architects. Additional community partners are being added as the number of schools grows.

Mission Statement

The Dubuque Soil and Water Conservation District is working to protect, conserve, and restore the natural resources of Dubuque County for present and future generations by actively seeking resources and partnerships to promote soil conservation and improve water quality.

Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

319/WSPF—This project is supported in part by the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, Division of Soil Conservation, through funds of the Water Protection Fund, and by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources through a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency under the Federal Non-point Source Management Plan (Section 319 of the Clean Water Act). Technical assistance is provided by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service.”

WIRB—This project is supported in part by the Iowa Watershed Improvement Review Board and with the support from the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, Division of Soil Conservation.

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The UCCW project has become another community partner! This year the educational application is going to be water quality/conservation. In doing so, the UCCW logo will become part of this fantastic program!!

